

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 5 and 7 through 9 are canceled without prejudice. New Claim 10 is added and Claim 1 is presented in amended form. Thus, by this Amendment, Claims 1, 6 and 10 are presented for examination.

The Examiner has rejected all claims of the application as filed. Claims 1, 5 and 7 are rejected as allegedly anticipated by either of the United States patents of Webb et al. or Whitney. Claim 7 is additionally rejected as allegedly anticipated by the United States patents of Milbury or Young. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected as allegedly anticipated by the United States patent of Marker et al. Claims 7 through 9 are rejected as allegedly anticipated by the United States patent of Reese. Claims 2 through 4, 6, 8 and 9 are rejected as allegedly obvious in view of either Webb et al. or Whitney. For reasons set forth below, the pending claim rejections are clearly overcome by the amended set of claims presented herein.

Applicant's attorney has amended Claim 1 to more clearly define the tool of the invention while new Claim 10 defines the invention as a system for selectively securing an auxiliary seat to an automobile seat. While the Examiner raised

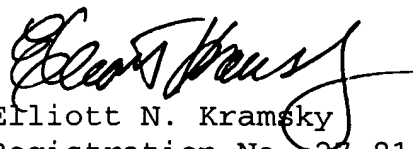
numerous prior art rejections, such rejections were based upon claims of much greater scope than those presented herein. Of the prior art cited, only Reese and Marker et al. address the problem addressed by the claimed invention (i.e. securing a child restraint seat to an automobile seat.) Neither of such references, either alone or in combination, teach, anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention as each is of significantly greater complexity and more costly to manufacture than the present invention which accomplishes the task of "fishing" a free end of a seat belt through a transverse channel in an auxiliary child restraint seat with a tool of exquisite simplicity and functionality.

As presently defined, it is made clear that the tool of the invention is formed of a single integral rod. Such term is intended to be accorded the following meaning taken from Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (10th Ed.) "A slender bar (as of wood or metal)". Of course, the rod of the present invention may also be formed of plastic. By employing such a basic element as building block, the claimed invention provides a highly advantageous alternative to either of the solutions mentioned above.

Of the remaining cited prior art, the most relevant are those of Young and Whitney. Each is based upon a rod formed into a structure adapted to the particular needs of a task that is remote from that addressed by the present invention. As such, it is not surprising that the forms of the Young and Whitney tools differ from that of the invention as presently claimed. Nor is it surprising that neither patent contains any hint of adaptability to the application to which the present invention is addressed. For example, in Young, the portion of the tool that corresponds to the Applicant's elongated straight member is not straight. In Whitney, the plane containing handle portion 32 and distal end 42 is clearly not orthogonal to the plane of the contour 48.

For the foregoing reasons, all presently-pending claims define patentable subject matter. Prompt allowance and issuance of all such claims are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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